



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

September 22, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 1559 (FROMMER) – URBAN PARK ACT OF 2006
(ITEM NO. 16, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2006)**

Item No. 16 on the September 26, 2006 agenda is a motion by Supervisor Molina recommending that the Board support AB 1559 (Frommer) and instruct the County's Sacramento Advocates to immediately notify Governor Schwarzenegger of the Board's support of AB 1559 and urge him to sign the bill into law.

Existing law establishes the Urban Park Act of 2001, which requires the California State Department of Parks and Recreation to establish and administer a local assistance program to offer grants, to eligible cities, counties, districts and nonprofit organizations, on a competitive basis, for the acquisition and development of urban parks and facilities. Eligible applicants include local agencies in "heavily urbanized" counties with a population of 500,000 or more, and a density of at least 1,100 persons per square mile. This program awards grants to proposals that meet certain criteria, including projects that create a new urban park and assigns a higher priority to projects that are located in a service area with a critical shortage in existing park facilities.

AB 1559, as amended on August 28, 2006, would change the name of the act to the Urban Park Act of 2006. The bill would amend the criteria for awarding a grant to include projects that result in a new recreational opportunity, define park access to mean the service area distance of approximately one-half mile or less from a residence to a park, and include community gardens in the definition of eligible facilities. In addition, the bill would broaden the evaluation criteria for placing a higher priority on

grant applications to include projects which would create a new park in a location where none currently exist; projects located in a service area with significant deficiencies in park access; projects that will recycle property; and projects that are accessible to pedestrians, bicycles, public transportation, and encourage the use by local residents.

According to the County's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), there is a severe deficiency in local urban parks in Los Angeles County, and this revision in the competitive grant criteria will give the County a greater opportunity to compete for urban park bond funds to acquire and develop new local park facilities. The Urban Park Act of 2006 would provide safe recreational opportunities for children and positive outlets for youth to participate in healthy park programs and assist in meeting the special recreational and social needs of senior citizens. **DPR recommends that the County support AB 1559, and we concur.**

Support for AB 1559 is consistent with current Board policy to support funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and to support legislation that promotes innovative programs that provide alternatives to gang activity.

AB 1559 is sponsored by the author and supported by the Trust for Public Land and the California Parks and Recreation Society. There is no registered opposition. The Assembly concurred with Senate amendments to AB 1559 on August 31, 2006 by a vote of 49 to 29. The Governor has until September 30, 2006 to take action on the bill.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:LY:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Parks and Recreation